

Message Text

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61/43

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01

PRS-01 SS-15 IO-13 AID-20 EB-11 SIL-01 LAB-06 A-01

OPR-02 SY-10 EA-11 NEA-10 OC-06 CCO-00 RSR-01 /166 W

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O P 231737Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5279

INFO AMEMBASSY LA PAZ PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LIMA PRIORITY

DIA/DOD

USCINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 3768

C O R R E C T E D COPY TEXT FIRST LINE PARA 7

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: CI PINT PINS MILI BL

SUBJ: CHAMBER CASTIGATES ALLENDE AMID RUMORS OF
BOLIVIAN MILITARY MOVE

REF: SANTIAGO 3742 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY. IN DAY AND NIGHT CHARACTERIZED BY MUCH MOVE-
MENT AND MEETINGS, CHAMBER APPROVED RESOLUTION EVENING AUG 22
CALLING ON ALLENDE AND MILITARY MINISTERS TO MEND GOVT'S WAYS.
FIERCE DEBATE PUNCTURED BY POINTED UP CALLS FOR DEFECTION FROM
PDC RANKS. UP DENOUNCED RESOLUTION AS AIMED AT FACILITATING A
GOLPE AND IN SECRET SESSION PCCH DEPUTY REPORTEDLY TOLD CONGRESS
OF SUSPICIOUS BOLIVIAN TROOP MOVEMENTS ON CHILE'S NORTHERN
BORDER. TRANSPORT STRIKE APPARENTLY NEARING NEGOTIATED END BUT
TRUCK OWNERS AND GOVT STILL BOGGED DOWN IN SOME STICKY POINTS.
ALLENDE MET WITH NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL LAST NIGHT. PRESS
REPORTS MANY FLAG OFFICER MEETINGS IN MINDEFENSE DURING DAY.
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POORLY ATTENDED CUT RALLY ISSUED NEW CALL FOR STATE OF ALERT.

END SUMMARY.

2. CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES MET IN SPECIAL SESSIONS TWICE AUG 22. IN MORNING MEETING OPPOSITION PARTIES INTRODUCED LEGISLATION CALLING UPON ALLENDE AND MILITARY MINISTERS TO RECTIFY GOVT POLICIES (REFTEL). DEBATE CONTINUED IN EVENING MEETING WITH OPPOSITION REPEATING ITS LINE AND UP ATTACKING RESOLUTION AS CONSTITUTING PRETEXT FOR SEDITIOUS ELEMENTS WITHIN MILITARY TO STAGE GOLPE. DURING EVENING MEETING, PCCH DEP. JORGE INSUNZA ASKED FOR SPECIAL SECRET SESSION, WHICH LASTED APPROXIMATELY 50 MINUTES. ACCORDING TO OPPOSITION DEPUTIES QUOTED IN PRESS INSUNZA STATED NATION IN GRAVE PERIL AND MADE OMINOUS MENTION OF TROOP MASSINGS ON BOLIVIAN SIDE OF BORDER. (AUG 23 INDEPENDENT LA TERCERA ALSO MENTIONS UNCONFIRMED REPORTS ON SAME SUBJECT COMING FROM CHILE'S NORTHERNMOST CITY, ARICA. FAR RIGHT LA TRIBUNA STATES THAT INSUNZA TALKED OF IMMINENT BOLIVIAN-PERUVIAN INVASION.) INSUNZA APPARENTLY MADE STRONG PITCH FOR DEFECTIONS FROM PDC AND SPECIFICALLY MENTIONED DEP. BERNARDO LEIGHTON AS ONE WHO SHOULD DISSOCIATE HIMSELF FROM OPPOSITION RESOLUTION. INSUNZA ALSO INTRODUCED RESOLUTION SUPPORTING PRES ALLENDE WHICH VOTED DOWN BEFORE CHAMBER VOTED 81047 ALONG STRAIGHT PARTY LINES TO APPROVE OPPOSITION RESOLUTION. UP PRESS HAS PICKED UP LINE AND PLAYING IT TO HILT THAT CHAMBER'S PASSAGE OF RESOLUTION CONSTITUTES PART OF SEDITIOUS GOLPE PLOTTING.

3. INSUNZA'S CALL FOR PDC DEFECTIONS HIGHLIGHTS GROWING RUMORS OF DISSENSION WITHIN THAT PARTY. LEIGHTON ISSUED STATEMENT AUG 21 RECOGNIZING THAT HE AT ODDS WITH SOME PARTY DECISIONS BUT NEVERTHE LESS LOYAL AND THAT ANY SUGGESTION TO CONTRARY PART OF UP PLOT TO DIVIDE PDC. APPARENTLY RUMORS OF DIVISION FANNED BY STORMY MONDAY EVENING MEETING OF PDC NATIONAL COUNCIL IN WHICH MANUEL RODRIGUEZ' STRIKE CALL (REFTEL) AND CONGRESSIONAL RESOLUTION DISCUSSED. ONE PDC SOURCE TOLD EMBOFF YESTERDAY THAT LEIGHTON, JORGE DONOSO, SEN. RENAN RUENTEALBA, AND DEP. SERGIO SAAVEDRA HAD OPPOSED BOTH THE STRIKE CALL AND THE RESOLUTION IN VERY STRONG TERMS. FUENTEALBA APPEARED EVENING AUG 22 ON NATIONAL TV INTERVIEW IN WHICH HE NOTED HIS DIFFERENCES WITH PARTY LEADERSHIP AND CALLED FOR REOPENING OF PDC-GOVT DIALOGUE WITH PROMULGATION OF THREE AREAS CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM AS KEY INITIAL GOAL.

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4. PRESS REPORTS REDOUBLED GUARDS AND HEAVY ACTIVITY AT BOTH THE MONEDA AND THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE AUG 22. PRES ALLENDE MET IN EARLY EVENING WITH NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL AFTER CANCELLING PREVIOUSLY ANNOUNCED PRESS CONFERENCE. PRESS ALSO REPORTS MANY COMINGS AND GOINGS IN MINISTRY DEFENSE BUILDING YESTERDAY AS GENERALS APPARENTLY HELD SERIES OF MEETINGS.

5. BOTH GOVT AND TRANSPORT STRIKE NEGOTIATORS CONTINUE MAKING SOUNDS TO EFFECT THAT SOLUTION NEAR. PRESS QUOTES RODADO PRES JUAN JARA AS REPORTING THAT ALL ISSUES RELATING TO PASSENGER TRANSPORT HAVE BEEN RESOLVED, BUT GOVT AND TRUCK OWNERS STILL BATTLING OVER NUMBER OF TRUCKS GOVT PREPARED TO MAKE AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE BY PRIVATE TRUCKERS AND WHEN SUCH PURCHASES CAN BE MADE. STORES OPENED IN SANTIAGO AND ELSEWHERE IN THE NATION AS MOST MERCHANT AND PROFESSIONAL GUILDS HAVE GONE BACK TO WORK. DOCTORS GUILD, HOWEVER, HAS EXTENDED ITS STRIKE FOR ANOTHER 72 HOURS.

6. CUT HELD POORLY ATTENDED MEETING AUG 22 AND ISSUED DECLARATION WHICH TERMS SITUATION "EXTREMELY SERIOUS," DENOUNCES GOLPE PLOTTING AND INSTRUCTS WORKERS TO MEET IN FACTORIES TODAY (AUG23). ONCE ASSEMBLED, WORKERS ARE TO PUT INTO OPERATION FACTORY PROTECTION PLANS AND STAY IN "PERMANENT CONTACT" WITH UNION LEADERSHIP. LATTER MAY NECESSITATE KEEPING AT LEAST SOME WORKERS AT ALL TIMES IN FACTORIES.

7. IN OTHER CONGRESSIONAL ACTION SENATE'S NATIONAL DEFENSE COMMITTEE SENT LETTER TO MINDEF PRATS INVITING HIM AND CINCS TO SPECIAL COMMITTEE MEETING TO DISCUSS POSSIBLE POLITICAL INTERFERENCE IN MILITARY WITH SPECIFIC REFERENCE TO PROMOTIONS AND CALLS TO RETIREMENT NOW BEING CONSIDERED. ON OTHER ISSUES, DEP ENRIQUE KRAUSS ASKING FOR SPECIAL MEETING CHAMBER FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE TO STUDY U.S.-CHILE BILATERAL TALKS (SEPTTEL).

8. SEVERAL INCIDENTS OF VIOLENCE REPORTEDLY TOOK PLACE AUG 22, INCLUDING SECOND BOMB IN AS MANY WEEKS AT NORTH KOREAN EMBASSY. PRESS ALSO REPORTS PHONE THREATS TO POLISH, HUNGARIAN, RUMANIAN AND CUBAN EMBASSY OFFICERS. AUG 23 MORNING RADIO REPORTS BRIDGES BLOWN UP NEAR CONCEPCION. CHITY HAD BEEN SCENE OF AUG 21 MIR-ARMY ENCOUNTER IN WHICH ACCORDING TO ZONE'S COMMANDING GENERAL, WASHINGTON CARRASCO, MIR FIRED ON SOLDIERS. NO INJURIES REPORTED
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IN THAT INCIDENT. DURING CONGRESSIONAL DEBATE AUG 22, JN PRES DEP JUAN LUIS OSSA STATED THAT HE HAD INDEED USED HIS PISTOL TO PROTECT HIMSELF DURING PREVIOUS DAY'S INCIDENTS IN DOWNTOWN SANTIAGO.

9. COMMENT. PERU-BOLIVIA "INVASION THREAT" MAY BE A MANEUVER TO REDIRECT MILITARY ATTENTION TO EXTERNAL CONCERNS AND DAMP DOWN INTENSE INTERNAL PRESSURES FOR PRATS'S RESIGNATION AND OTHER POSSIBLE MILITARY DEMANDS.
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